

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  ASCENDTEL, LLC	DOCKET NOS. TCU-01-9 WRU-01-21-3556
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**ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION, CONCURRENCE IN MAPS,  
AND GRANTING WAIVER**

(Issued June 21, 2001)

On May 3, 2001, Ascendtel, LLC (Ascendtel), filed an application for issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity, pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.29 (2001), stating its intention to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange services in the local exchanges and service territory of Qwest Corporation (Qwest). The application has been identified as Docket No. TCU-01-9. Ascendtel has provided the qualifications of its company officers and financial statements and commits to providing dialing parity intraLATA and interLATA by implementing a 2-PIC pre-subscription methodology.

Iowa Code § 476.29(2) (2001) provides that the local exchange carrier shall not be denied a certificate if the Utilities Board (Board) finds that the applicant "possesses the technical, financial, and managerial ability to provide the service it proposes to render and the Board finds the service is consistent with the public interest."

The Board has reviewed Ascendtel's application and finds the necessary technical, financial, and managerial ability to provide local exchange service has been demonstrated. The Board finds that it is consistent with the public interest to approve the application.

Ascendtel also states that its service area will mirror the service territory of exchanges and service area maps of Qwest as they are currently filed and as they may be modified in the future. Iowa Code § 476.29(4) requires that each certificate define the service territory in which land-line local telephone service will be provided and authorizes the Board to promulgate rules establishing requirements for filing maps showing the service territory. Subrule 199 IAC 22.20(3) requires that all utilities have on file with the Board maps, which show exchange boundaries. The Board finds that Ascendtel has complied with the statutory and rule requirements by concurring in the exchange maps of Qwest.

Ascendtel has requested that the Board waive the requirements of 199 IAC 16.5(2), 18.2, and 22.3(1). The waiver requests were identified as Docket No. WRU-01-21-3556.

Ascendtel requested a waiver of 199 IAC 16.5(2), which requires the keeping of records according to the uniform system of accounts. Ascendtel states that it employs an accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Board finds that this waiver should be granted, since records kept in accordance with GAAP accounting are acceptable for a competitive local exchange service provider.

Ascendtel has requested that the requirements of 199 IAC 18.2 be waived. The rule requires that a regulated public utility keep its records in Iowa. The Board will grant the waiver based upon the statement of Ascendtel that it will make the records available to the Board upon request.

Ascendtel also requested the Board waive 199 IAC 22.3(1), requiring it to independently publish a directory. The Board will grant this waiver since Ascendtel does not have a sufficient number of customers to warrant publishing a directory and Ascendtel states that it will provide customer information to incumbent carriers for inclusion in the directories.

Rule 199 IAC 1.3 states that the Board may grant a waiver if it finds, based upon clear and convincing evidence, that the application of the rule would pose an undue hardship, the waiver would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person, the provisions waived are not specifically mandated by statute, and substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded after the waiver. The Board has considered the waiver request described above and finds that the waiver meets the four criteria of the rule and the evidence in support of the waiver is clear and convincing.

Adherence to these three rules would be an undue hardship on a competitive telecommunications company just beginning to do business in Iowa. It would be an undue hardship for such companies to keep a separate set of books just for Iowa, to maintain a separate office in Iowa, and to publish a directory for just their customers. The Board finds there are no substantial legal rights of any person that are affected

by these waivers and there is no statute that specifically mandates the actions waived. Additionally, the Board finds that there will be substantial equal protection for health, safety, and welfare provided since the actions waived will be completed under different circumstances.

Ascendtel has not filed proposed tariffs for Board approval setting out the service and rates for providing local exchange service. The Board finds that a certificate should not be issued to Ascendtel until it has approved tariffs.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity filed by Ascendtel, LLC, on May 3, 2001, is approved, subject to the requirements that follow.

2. The Board will issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity allowing Ascendtel, LLC, to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange service upon approval of tariffs to reflect the prices, terms, and conditions of local exchange service in Iowa. At the time Ascendtel, LLC, files proposed tariffs with the Board, it must give notice to all affected local exchange carriers.

3. The concurrence in the maps and boundaries of the exchanges of Qwest Corporation is approved.

4. The waivers of 199 IAC 16.5(2), 18.2, and 22.3(1) are granted as described in this order.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2001